



Licensing of: Military Members & Spouses

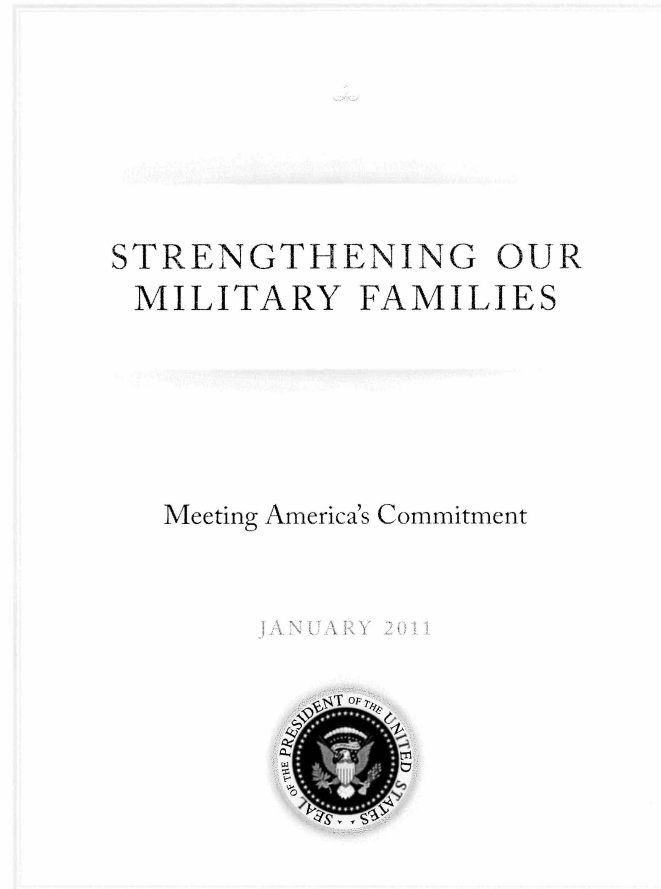
Presented at the
NASBA 105th Annual Meeting
Orlando, Florida

Licensing of military members and spouses

- ▶ Genesis – why did this become an issue?
- ▶ How many states have voted in favor of licensing legislation for military members and spouses?
- ▶ What happened in Wyoming?
- ▶ Where does Wyoming go from here?



Licensing of military members and spouses



Licensing of military members and spouses



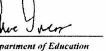
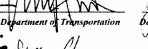


STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

We recognize the tremendous service to our Nation made by the men and women of the Armed Services, our Veterans, and their families.

We commit to making the well-being of our military families one of our highest priorities and to improving their access to services and support.

We will ensure that this priority is communicated aggressively across our organizations, receives the necessary resources, and is assessed and strengthened going forward.

Our commitment is enduring; not just for today's military families, but for future generations.

 Department of State	 Department of the Interior	 Department of Health and Human Services	 Department of Education
 Department of Treasury	 Department of Agriculture	 Department of Housing and Urban Development	 Department of Veterans Affairs
 Department of Defense	 Department of Commerce	 Department of Transportation	 Department of Homeland Security
 Department of Justice	 Department of Labor	 Department of Energy	 Environmental Protection Agency

Licensing of military members and spouses



JOINING FORCES

TAKING ACTION TO SERVE
AMERICA'S MILITARY FAMILIES

"I want to send a very clear message to the men and women who are wearing – or who have worn – our country's uniform and to their spouses: when you have finished your service to our nation, you've got 2,000 great American companies ready and waiting to bring you on board"

– Michelle Obama, August 22, 2012



Licensing of military members and spouses

23 States that have adopted laws to make it easier for military spouses to get or transfer professional licenses: Source www.armytimes.com 7/2012

- ▶ Alabama
 - ▶ Alaska
 - ▶ Arizona
 - ▶ Colorado
 - ▶ Connecticut
 - ▶ Delaware
 - ▶ Florida
 - ▶ Illinois
 - ▶ Indiana
 - ▶ Kansas
 - ▶ Kentucky
 - ▶ Louisiana
 - ▶ Massachusetts
 - ▶ Missouri
 - ▶ Montana
 - ▶ Nevada
 - ▶ Oklahoma
 - ▶ Tennessee
 - ▶ Texas
 - ▶ Utah
 - ▶ Virginia
 - ▶ Washington
 - ▶ Wisconsin
-



- ▶ In this case, we don't think so. But the language has to be "right".
- ▶ Wyoming is ranked in the top 20 states that report the largest numbers of military spouses per 1,000 civilian spouses. Source www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil *Supporting our Military Families: Best Practices for Streamlining Occupational Licensing Across State Lines – February 2012*
- ▶ Wyoming has a proud tradition of supporting the military and has a good reputation amongst military personnel as being a good place to be stationed.

Licensing of military members and spouses

Is it "anti-military" to oppose legislation intended to assist military members and spouses in assimilating into the civilian community?



For military members: Enact laws that require professional and occupational licensing boards to accept work experience earned during military service in satisfaction of minimum qualifications. The way the draft legislation was written, military members would have been granted a certificate (for any profession or occupation governed by Title 33 of Wyoming Statutes) **based only on work experience. The education and examination requirements would not have applied.**

For military spouses: For the CPA Board in Wyoming current laws pertaining to licensing reciprocity already exist. The proposed legislation with respect to military spouses was not a problem. Other Wyoming occupational and professional licensing boards, particularly for health care occupations and teaching, require extensive background checks. Those boards are concerned about being required to issue temporary permits. Language in the current draft legislation is written so as not to compel a board to issue a temporary permit. It is an option, but not a requirement.

Licensing of military members and spouses

When the draft legislation was introduced during Wyoming's legislative session in February, 2012, these were the issues.

The draft bill died for lack of introduction on general file by the deadline.



- ▶ The Wyoming Board of CPAs seems to be the board in the state that has the most concern.
- ▶ The way the bill becomes law will have a direct affect on Wyoming's substantial equivalency status.
- ▶ Threats to public protection and whether Wyoming certificate holders may practice using "mobility" are at issue.
- ▶ The Governor has tasked the Adjutant General of the State of Wyoming Military Department with working with occupational and professional licensing boards to ensure the legislation is passed in 2013 without compromising public protection.
- ▶ The Adjutant General holds a Wyoming certificate so he understands the bigger issues related to the proposed legislation.
- ▶ I have represented my peers on the committee that has worked on compromise language that we think will work.
- ▶ NASBA has been a great resource to the Wyoming Board in this matter. Ken Bishop, Noel Allen and Dan Dustin – all great to work with!

Licensing of military members and spouses

Where does Wyoming go from here?

